KATIVIK

Quarterly Update

Keeping Nunavimmiut up to date on the work of the Kativik Regional Government

TNQ Achieves Success in Nuuk, Greenland

Team Nunavik-Québec (TNQ) represented Nunavik well at the Arctic Winter Games held in Nuuk, Greenland, from March 6 to 11. Overall, 23 Ulus (6 gold, 9 silver and 8 bronze) were won, largely in Dene Games and Arctic Sports. Highlights of the week included:

- Four Ulus won by Deseray Cumberbatch in Arctic Sports, open female competitions (gold in Triple Jump, silver in Arm Pull and One-Foot High Kick, and bronze in Sledge Jump);
- Enthusiastic family supporters in Nuuk including elder Louisa Cookie Brown;
- Eleven Fair Play Pins awarded to TNQ athletes and cultural performers.

Throughout the six-day Games, Nunavimmiut were kept informed daily of TNQ's progress with updates and athlete interviews posted on Facebook and broadcast on regional radio. TNQ's participation in the 2016 Arctic Winter Games was made possible with the generous support of Glencore Raglan Mine, Hydro-Québec, Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton, the Makivik Corporation, the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (education, recreation and sport), and the northern villages. TNQ chaperones, coaches and mission staff should also be recognized for their dedication and hard work during the event.

TNQ competes in Arctic Sports, Dene Games, Badminton, Table Tennis, Snowshoe and Cross-Country Skiing. The next Arctic Winter Games will be organized in Hay River and Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, in March 2018.

Workforce Placement Region for Nunavik Tradespeople

Further to amendments to the *Regulation respecting the Hiring and Mobility of Employees in the Construction Industry*, transition measures are now being implemented to create a separate construction workforce placement region for Nunavik by June 2017. Regional stakeholders will collaborate closely with the Commission de la construction du Québec to foster an efficient transition of the construction industry to the region's distinct characteristics, including Inuit culture and the Inuktitut language. After more than 30 years of representations by regional organizations, these measures are finally bringing construction labour hiring and mobility rules in line with paragraphs 29.0.31 and 29.0.32 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*.

Detention Conditions, Justice and Crime Prevention

The Québec Ombudsman released in February a special report and recommendations on detention conditions, the administration of justice and crime prevention in Nunavik. The KRG and the Makivik Corporation have indicated their commitment to work with the Québec government to implement concrete improvements as quickly as possible. In particular, the regional organizations are calling for better funding for public security facilities that currently fall below minimum standards in most communities.

Over many years, repeated representations have been made regarding the many shortcomings in the delivery of justice in Nunavik. In the late spring of 2015, both the KRG and the Makivik Corporation adopted resolutions urging the Québec government to live up to its obligations regarding the administration of justice and related issues in Nunavik, in accordance with the rights of Nunavik Inuit under the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* as well as with the fundamental issues regarding justice and social regulation identified in the *Parnasimautik Consultation Report*.

Roles and Responsabilities

The three main roles of KRG Councillors are to represent the interests of the region and all residents; to adopt guidelines, policies, ordinances and by-laws keeping in mind the general interest of the region's residents; and to ensure that KRG programs and services are carried out by hiring staff, approving contracts and exercising control over expenses.

KRG Councillors play a leading role in defining and implementing a vision for Nunavik with regards to public infrastructure, local and regional development, renewable resources, the environment, land use, parks, public security, transportation, recreation and sustainable employment, among many other sectors. KRG Councillors are required to keep themselves up to date on issues and have a responsibility to request information to enable them to participate fully in Council deliberations and to make informed decisions.

Decolonization Workshop

KRG Councillors took part at their February sitting in a decolonization workshop conducted by Mary-Jeanne Kanki. The experiential workshop invited participants to look at how colonization over the years has suppressed Inuit knowledge, practices, sustenance and well-being, disempowering Inuit society as a whole. Links were also explained regarding how unresolved grief and trauma have produced societal and individual disparitedness and disharmony. By reclaiming traditional tools based on respect, compassion and self-care, participants are better prepared for a process of change that will lead them towards decolonization of the mind.

Cost-of-Living Measures

Adjustments to some regional cost-of-living programs have been announced by the KRG and the Makivik Corporation to better target support for the region's most disadvantaged residents and promote healthy lifestyles that take into account Inuit traditional activities and culture. Improvements include:

- Under the Country Food Community Support Program, the subsidy payable to northern villages for country food purchases will be increased to 90%;
- Under the Food and Other Essentials Program, the subsidy applicable for baby products will be increased to 90% and gasoline distributors in the communities will be added to the list of participating retailers for the sale of camping fuel and snowmobile oil;
- Under Elders' Assistance, the annual assistance paid to eligible recipients will be increased to $1,780.

Complete program descriptions may be consulted at www.krg.ca.

Recent KRG Appointments

The KRG Council has the responsibility to appoint representatives to sit on various other regional organizations. At the KRG Council's February sitting, the following appointments were made: Minnie Napaaluk and Claude Gadbois to the board of directors of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (the KRG's third appointee since 2014 is Daniel Ouvant), and Tunu Napartuk to the board of directors of the Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund (the KRG's other appointee since 2009 is Peter Angnatuk).

The KRG Council appointed Michael Gordon (left) to the position of Director General and ratified the appointment by the Executive Committee of Lydia Watt (right) to the position of Director of the Sustainable Employment Department.

2016 KRG Budget Adopted

The KRG's annual budget was adopted at the most recent sitting of the Council in February. Adoption of the budget was delayed this year due to municipal elections held in November 2015. Also during the Council sitting, copies of the annual operational objectives for each of the organization's 10 departments were distributed.

Helping Nunavimmiut to Eat Well

At their February sitting, KRG Councillors learned about the activities of the NRBHSS to increase knowledge of healthy eating and to promote country and store-bought food selection and preparation skills. In-store nutrition activities include shelf talkers that help customers to make healthy food choices, a guide for store managers, and food sampling booths set up in local stores. The NRBHSS is also responsible for monitoring reports on the Nutrition North Canada program as well as coordinating the development of a regional food security policy with other Nunavik stakeholders.

May-June Council Sitting

Every year, the May–June sitting of the KRG Council is organized in a different community. KRG councillors selected Quaqtaq as the location for their spring 2016 sitting from May 30 to June 2.

Isurruutiit Municipal Infrastructure Improvements, Phase 4

The KRG and the Québec government are finalizing an agreement concerning phase four of the Isurruutiit Program for the maintenance and improvement of infrastructure in the northern villages. The renewed Program will include a new $100 million resource envelope for various infrastructure construction and renovation projects, as well as equipment purchasing projects.

A conference call was organized by the KRG Municipal Public Works Department with the northern villages in early February to keep them informed of the agreement and identify priority projects for 2016. The agreement will be approved and signed by the government as quickly as possible.

The three components of the Isurruutiit Program focus on infrastructure upgrading work (for drinking water, wastewater, solid waste and roads), buildings and other municipal facility construction and renovations (offices, garages and outdoor recreation infrastructure), and vehicle and heavy equipment purchases and overhauls (for drinking water, wastewater, solid waste and roads).

Phase one of the Isurruutiit Program started in 1999, phase two in 2006 and phase three in 2011. A few remaining projects will also be completed with phase-three funding this coming summer.

Between 1999 and 2015, the Isurruutiit Program has ensured investments worth $214 million in municipal infrastructure. Phase 4 will increase these investments by an additional $100 million over the next five years.

Community Planning

The process to update the master plan for Akulivik began in 2014 and was completed in 2015.

Master plans and zoning bylaws are important tools. These tools allow communities to control local land use. Over the last 35 years, Nunavik communities have grown, infrastructure has become more complex, and safety issues arising with larger populations and climate change represent new complicating factors. In this context, most municipalities are experiencing significant difficulties in controlling development.

Community planning is a technical and political process. In many communities, the space suitable for additional construction is limited, while lot planning (locations, suitability), construction techniques (sand, bedrock) and environmental enhancement must also all be taken into account.

It is important for communities to keep their overall vision, goals and policies for community development up to date. Municipalities, local stakeholders and residents are all participants in the land use planning process.

The KRG Renewable Resources, Environmental, Lands and Parks Department is responsible for providing training and technical assistance to municipal employees and elected officials regarding local master plans and zoning by-laws.

Maritime Arctic SAR Review

The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) is conducting a review of maritime search and rescue response capacity throughout the Arctic. The general objective of the project is to enhance capacity, identify resources and make sure that volunteers are properly trained, insured, tasked through a rescue centre and reimbursed for costs.

In Nunavik, the CCG review will meet with community stakeholders in Kuujjuaq, Kangirsuk, Kangiqsujuaq, Kuujjuarapik, Inukjuak and Puvirnituq, and serve to increase understanding of the risks faced by regional boaters and explore opportunities for improving local CCG Auxiliary capacity. The review will be conducted through the summer of 2016 and the spring of 2017. Operational and training funding is planned for a five-year period.

CCG Auxiliary volunteers are experienced mariners who are familiar with the local environment and typically respond to more than 25% of all maritime search and rescue incidents in Canada. CCG Auxiliary vessels and volunteers make it possible to speed up incident responses.

Community fast rescue boat capabilities will be integrated into the CCG Auxiliary. Since 2011, marine SAR training has been coordinated by the KRG for more than 80 community fast rescue boat captains and crew.

Vocational and Job Training

The Kativik Regional Employment and Training Committee (KRETC) is an effective forum for identifying and coordinating vocational and on-the-job training priorities across the region. The KRETC is led by the KRG Sustainable Employment Department with the participation of regional organizations.

In January, the KRETC reviewed 150 applications representing approximately $14 million in proposed employment and training initiatives for 2016–2017. In line with the available resource envelope, $6.8 million in projects were prioritized. Recommended priority projects include:

- Garage management training by the northern villages and the KRG Municipal Public Works Department;
- Social worker training by the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS);
- Justice committee coordinator training by the Makivik Corporation;
- Local recreation coordinator training by the northern villages and the KRG Recreation Department;
- Construction trades as well as worksite health and safety training by the Kativik School Board and the Sanajiit Project;
- Midwifery training by the Inuulitsivik Health Centre.

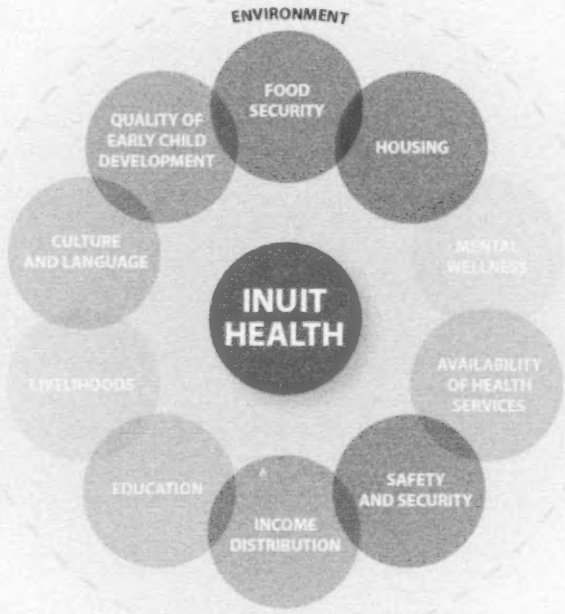
Some participants of training organized in 2015 by the KRG Civil Security Section for northern village fire fighters.

Qanuilirpitaa 2017

Planning by the NRBHSS of the 2017 Qanuilirpitaa Health Survey is continuing. Key preparation steps this year will include consultations with organizations and regional residents on proposed themes and topics for the survey (April), a pilot project in one community (September) and finalization of all questionnaires and clinical measures (December). According to planning, the research ship will visit all communities in August and September 2017.

Three of the objectives of Qanuilirpitaa are to follow-up on the health status of adult participants since the last survey in 2004 and assess the health status of youth, as well as improve understanding of health and social issues to support sound community development.

Steering committee members include more than 10 Nunavik and Québec organizations, including the KRG. Important funding is being contributed by the NRBHSS, the KRG, the Makivik Corporation, the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, and ArcticNet.



Source: Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Tuberculosis Update

According to Dr. Françoise Bouchard, the Interim Director of Public Health for Nunavik, tuberculosis remains a major threat in the north. While tuberculosis numbers in Nunavik peaked in 2012, there were still 43 reported cases in 2015. Community involvement in promoting screening for individuals and the treatment of active cases and sleeping tuberculosis has been very effective in controlling recent outbreaks in Salluit (2015) and Kangiqsualujjuaq (2012).

Fifteen to 30 year olds are the age group most affected by the recent outbreaks. Symptoms of tuberculosis include coughing for more than two weeks, weakness, loss of appetite and weight loss. BCG vaccinations are being offered on a voluntary basis for children under two years old in a few communities: Already being administered in Salluit and Kangiqsualujjuaq, the vaccinations will also be offered in Inukjuak and Umiujaq starting in the spring.